

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic device comprising:

means for inhibiting activation of the electronic device;

5 means for holding information representing whether activation is inhibited by the inhibiting means; and

means for executing activation or activation inhibition of the electronic device on the basis of the information stored in the storage means when an  
10 activation instruction is generated in the electronic device.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is arranged in a housing of the electronic device.

15 3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the control means includes a sub-processor different from a main processor arranged in the electronic device.

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the control means includes a sub-processor different from  
20 a main processor arranged in the electronic device, and the storage means is arranged in the sub-processor.

5. A device according to claim 2, wherein the inhibiting means designates inhibition even when the electronic device is OFF.

25 6. A device according to claim 3, which further comprises a power supply controller that manages a power supply of the electronic device, and in which the

control means issues a power supply request to the power supply controller when the activation instruction is received and activation of the electronic device is permitted.

5           7. An electronic device comprising:

          means for inhibiting activation of the electronic device; and

          means for, when an activation instruction is generated from software which runs in the electronic  
10       device, deciding whether activation of the electronic device is inhibited by the inhibiting means, and when activation is inhibited, inhibiting activation of the electronic device.

          8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the  
15       inhibiting means is arranged in a housing of the electronic device.

          9. A device according to claim 7, wherein the control means includes a sub-processor different from a main processor arranged in the electronic device.

20       10. A device according to claim 8, wherein the inhibiting means designates inhibition even when the electronic device is OFF.

          11. A device according to claim 7, which further comprises a power supply controller that manages a  
25       power supply of the electronic device, and in which the control means issues a power supply request to the power supply controller when the activation instruction

is received and activation of the electronic device is permitted.

12. An electronic device comprising:

5 means for inhibiting activation of the electronic device;

means for holding information representing whether activation is inhibited by the inhibiting means; and

10 means for executing activation or activation inhibition of the electronic device on the basis of the information stored in the storage means upon reception of one of an activation instruction from a power supply switch arranged in a housing of the electronic device, an activation instruction from software which runs in the electronic device, and an activation instruction  
15 from a network connected to the electronic device.

13. A power supply control method in an electronic device, comprising:

20 storing information representing activation inhibition or activation permission of the electronic device that is designated by inhibiting means for inhibiting activation of the electronic device;

receiving an activation instruction for the electronic device from software which runs in the electronic device; and

25 inhibiting activation of the electronic device when the stored information represents activation inhibition.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein storage of the information, reception of the activation instruction, and activation inhibition of the electronic device are performed by a sub-processor.

5        15. A method according to claim 13, wherein  
a power supply controller which manages a power supply of the electronic device is further arranged, and

a power supply request is issued to the power  
10 supply controller when the activation instruction for the electronic device is received and the information permits activation.

16. A power supply control method in an electronic device having inhibiting means for inhibiting  
15 activation of the electronic device, and storage means for holding information representing whether activation is inhibited by the inhibiting means, comprising:

receiving an activation instruction from a power supply switch arranged in a housing of the electronic  
20 device, an activation instruction from software which runs in the electronic device, or an activation instruction from a network connected to the electronic device; and

executing activation or activation inhibition of  
25 the electronic device on the basis of the information stored in the storage means.